

The Intelligencer.

Religious Tests in Politics—The North Carolina Expulsion Case.

A prominent citizen sends us the following note:

"I have read and re-read the article in your Daily of the 2d, on 'God in Politics.' I would be pleased to see the balance of this article. It is cut short, and the heading says that Thorne was expelled. Thorne has my sympathy, and why should he not?"

We would say that the article re-published was from a Raleigh paper of the 24th of February, giving the proceedings of the North Carolina Legislature on the previous day on the motion to expel Mr. Thorne for his alleged atheism. Since that we have seen nothing further on the subject save the Associated Press dispatch that Thorne was actually expelled.

In regard to the sympathy of our correspondent with the expelled member, we would say that we have no doubt that most unprejudiced people feel the same sympathy. To expel a member from a legislative body in this age of the world for no offense save his opinions on religious matters is an occurrence calculated to do harm to religion. The men who introduced and pressed the resolution for Thorne's expulsion belonged to the class who have zeal without knowledge. Had they been really wise persons they would have subordinated their zeal to their discretion, knowing that persecution for conscience sake always results in injury to those who incite the persecution. Thorne did not claim to be an Atheist, as was charged against him. On the contrary he claimed to be (and proved that he was) a member in good standing of the "Progressive Order of Friends." He also professed, in the presence of the body from which he was expelled, the following creed, viz: that "there is but one living and true God; everlasting, without body, or parts, or passions; of unlimited power, wisdom and goodness; the maker of all things, visible and invisible." And yet despite this profession he was expelled.

It makes no odds that his expulsion was effected under a clause of the North Carolina Constitution. The clause referred to is a relic of the same illiberal spirit that in one or two of the States, within a few years ago, made Catholics ineligible to office, and that until a comparatively recent period prohibited Jews in England from taking seats in Parliament. The clause referred to in the North Carolina Constitution reads as follows:

"No person who shall deny the being of God, or the truth of the Protestant religion, or the divine authority of either the Old or New Testaments, or who shall hold religious principles incompatible with the freedom and safety of the State, shall be capable of holding any office or place of trust or profit in the civil department, within this State."

The reader will notice that the framers of the North Carolina Constitution were perfectly willing that any citizen should deny the truth of the Catholic religion, but not of the Protestant, which shows how narrow and pitiable were their views of the qualifications that should belong to a public officer. Under the clause quoted, some of the most eminent American statesmen would have been disfranchised. Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, for instance, could not have held seats in the North Carolina Legislature. Perhaps a very large number of useful and illustrious public men, who have figured in the most responsible places of our Government, could never have qualified under the Constitution of that State as even Justices of the Peace.

The bigotry therefore of such a proscription clause is apparent to every unprejudiced mind. Its effect is to make hypocrites of aspirants for public position and to only deprive honest men, who respect their oaths, from office. How different is the spirit in which the organic law of Virginia, under the auspices of Thomas Jefferson and his compatriots, was conceived. The famous Bill of Rights of that State, adopted in the same year as the Declaration of Independence, proclaimed "that religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion according to the dictates of conscience; and it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity towards each other."

The other day we published an address from the Pope, in which he deprecated the existence of Protestant worship within the sacred precincts of Rome. No doubt every Protestant reader resented (and very properly, too) his deprecatory remarks. And yet a set of Protestants down in North Carolina, like so many Pharisees who think God that they are not as other men, constitute themselves infallible Popes, and prescribe such of their fellow-citizens as do not square their religious views by their standards. Is not such legislation unworthy of the age in which we live? We can think of it only as a relic of the Dark Ages of the world, when men were sent to the stake and to prison for daring to exercise the rights of conscience. We trust that the effect of the discussion that will be aroused on the subject will be to abrogate this unworthy clause from the North Carolina Constitution.

The Case of Senator Bill Burnett.

This enterprising young financier, who has made such a good thing out of the public money, admits in his testimony that he made his private pudding contract with the Merchants Bank of Charleston (to receive 3 per cent on \$30,000 to \$40,000) and got the benefit of it himself, because, as he says, his virtuous father was afraid to contract on his own hook on account of the severity of the new constitution. Now it appears from the records in the Executive Journal that Senator Bill was appointed Treasurer *ad interim* by the Governor several times during the absence of his father, and therefore became a *State officer* while he was receiving this bonus of 3 per cent. Hence upon his own showing he perjured himself, because the law says that any State officer receiving a bonus, &c., shall upon conviction thereof be imprisoned in the penitentiary for not less than five years.

Senator Bill is good evidence against himself, and on the strength of what he knows of his peculations should be getting his striped suit ready.

Our dispatches this morning show that Texas, like Indiana and several other States, refuses to be responsible for the confirmation of Dr. Koven as a Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church. No doubt the same reasons that actuated Indiana influenced the action of Texas. The Committee of the former State declared that Dr. Koven has openly declared in many ways his acceptance of, and belief in, the doctrine of Eucharistic Adoration, and also advocates and hears confessions in cases other than those authorized in the Book of Common Prayer, and commends and encourages the habitual practice of auricular confession. The Committee also say that the Bishops of the Church in a pastoral letter of 1871, officially condemned Eucharistic Adoration and the use of the Consecration, and therefore the Committee cannot give its assent to the consecration of Rev. Dr. Koven.

The Ohio river proper is about eighteen hundred feet average width, and nine hundred and fifty miles long, and has numerous large tributaries, which, with the main river, embrace about five thousand miles of navigable water, all running through a rich mineral and agricultural country. Its waters drain the surface of two hundred and fifty-nine counties, from which the United States, through the Internal Revenue Department, since 1863, has collected \$246,283,112 31, clearly proving it to run through a region of great wealth and extensive manufactures. It also connects Pittsburgh with twelve thousand miles of water transportation, by which four hundred counties can be reached, in fifteen different States of the Union, without breaking bulk, running past several of the largest and most prosperous cities of the Union.

AFTER a thought of the rigors of the long, tedious winter, and a glance at the cheerless prospects for an early spring, there is at least a bit of comfort in the following, from the San Diego (Cal.) Union, of Feb 18:

"The almond trees are in blossom in Paradise Valley. Mr. Sewall brought us the first of the day for our Eastern enjoyments. Quite a large party visited El Cajon the other day. That valley presents quite a magnificent appearance just now."

And the following from the same:

"Excursions by land and water are the order of the day for our Eastern enjoyments. Quite a large party visited El Cajon the other day. That valley presents quite a magnificent appearance just now."

And this:

"The almond trees in our town gardens are in blossom. Lemon and orange trees bearing both fruit and blossoms may also be seen."

And this:

"The grass is coming up finely every where, making the face of the country green and beautiful."

A GOOD POINT ON ANNIE DICKINSON.—This well known lecturer spoke in New York, on the Beecher Scandal. The Herald satirized her in advance as follows:

"Why should a young woman not destitute of good looks or of the feminine tastes which render her sex attractive go delving in this nauseous and noxious affair? [She knows anything let her offer herself as a witness; if she knows nothing let her express unfeignedly her curiosity for forbidden knowledge. Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise,' and it is a step beyond propriety for a young lady to instruct others in things which she ought to know nothing herself."

The colored puffers gone to work at Pittsburgh.

A part of the detachment of colored puffers from Virginia who are to work the furnaces at the Pittsburgh Bolt Works, on Second avenue, near Franktown arrived in the city yesterday at noon and were at once put to labor. They were met at the depot by a delegation of puffers, who stated the condition of affairs now existing in this city between iron workers and manufacturers, and offered to pay their way back to Richmond, but the proposition was declined. No opposition at all was made to the new men going to work, but in anticipation of trouble a constabulary force was on hand to repress any symptoms of outbreak. The remainder of the colored men, who missed connection with their train yesterday, will arrive to-day. The puffers occupying the tenement houses of the company have been notified to make way for the new arrivals.

The Closing Up of That Tavern in Alexandria.

The closing up of a tavern in Alexandria, because of the passage of the Civil Rights Bill can not be regarded in any other light than a National calamity. A hotel in Alexandria is indispensable to human comfort. Were a hotel in New York, or Chicago, or St. Louis to close its doors and tie up the hands of the workers and travelers on the hands thereof, it might pass as an event of particular importance. But to know and to feel that in Alexandria a place of entertainment for man and beast has actually gone and done it, is calculated to make one wish, with Job, that he had never been born, or, with Beecher, Tilton and Montfort, that he were dead.

By Telegraph

ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT.

TO THE DAILY INTELLIGENCER

Night Dispatches.

CONGRESS.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, March 3.

The doors were re-opened at half-past 1, and soon thereafter the consideration of the river and harbor appropriation bill was resumed, the question being on concurring in the amendments made in Committee of the Whole, other than those agreed to by separate votes, which were all non-concurred in, with the exception of a few appropriations for the Atlantic coast harbors mainly. The bill was then read the third time and passed.

At 3 A. M. Mr. Edmunds, from the Conference Committee on the Legislative, Judicial and Executive Appropriation bill submitted a report, which was agreed to.

Mr. Sargent called up the deficiency appropriation bill and several of the amendments reported by the Committee, which were agreed to, including the following: authorizing the transmission of such documents as are provided for distribution to the Governors of States free through the mails, striking out the appropriation to pay various contestants for seats in the House of Representatives, appropriating \$55,000 for the expenses of the signal service business; authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to sell the land held by him in trust for the Choctaw Indians at an amount not exceeding \$200,000, and pay the proceeds over to the representative of the Choctaw nation; appropriating \$102,000 (for the subsistence of the Sioux Indians who have been collected on Red Cloud and White Stone agencies; authorizing the Secretary of the State to pay \$500 to each of the three years, for the expenses of the expedition who reported upon special subjects served on international juries and were delayed at Vienna on public business; providing that hereafter the commission of all officers under the control of the Secretary of the Interior shall be subject to the approval of the Interior department; allowing any Indians born in the United States, and who abandon their tribal relation benefits of homestead law of May 20, 1862, and allowing such Indians to become citizens of the United States after these years. Several amendments were submitted, but were ruled out on a point of order that they had never been reported favorably by any committee. The bill was then reported to the Senate and amendments made in the Committee of the Whole. Agreed to.

Mr. Scott called up the House bill making appropriations to pay awards made by the Southern Claims Commission. He said the whole number of claims examined by the Committee were 2,497, of these 1,613 were allowed, involving an expenditure of \$840,000. The bill was read the third time and passed.

Mr. Scott moved to take up the House bill to pay awards for quarter master or commissary stores furnished during the war. Agreed to.

Mr. Pratt, from the Committee on Pensions, called up a number of House bills granting pensions to widows and children, dependent mothers and fathers, orphans, brothers and sisters of those soldiers murdered by Guerrillas at Centralia, Mo., Jan. 18, 1862.

Mr. Windom, from the Committee on Conference, on the river and harbor appropriation bill made a report. Agreed to. In making the report he said the Committee had cut down the appropriation for the relief of the Indians to \$100,000. Mr. Schurz called up the House bill amendatory of the act of March 31, 1873, authorizing the construction of a bridge across the Mississippi river at St. Louis. Passed.

Mr. Frelinghuysen called up Senate bill relating to the Hot Springs reservation, Arkansas. Passed.

Bills removing the disabilities of a number of persons were passed.

Mr. Morrill, from the committee of conference, reported the deficiency appropriation bill. Agreed to.

Mr. Gordon called up the bill to amend the act for the erection of public buildings for the use of the United States in Atlanta, Ga. Passed.

Mr. Logan, from the conference committee called up the bill for the equalization of bounties. Reported.

Mr. Sprague moved to lay the bill on the table.

Mr. West.—That don't make any difference. The amendments of the Senate have been agreed to by the House and the bill is passed.

Mr. Sprague demanded the yeas and nays on his motion to lay the report on the table, and it was agreed to. Yeas 30, nays 24.

Mr. West said this was a house bill, it came to the Senate and was amended; the House refused to concur in the amendment of the Senate and it went to a Conference Committee, subsequently the House did concur in the Senate amendments and the bill was therefore passed.

The Chair (Ingalls) said the report of the Conference Committee had been on the table.

Mr. Morrill, of Vermont.—And has not been accepted by the Senate.

Mr. Bayard, of Delaware, submitted a resolution tendering thanks to Henry Wilson for the impartial and courteous manner in which he has presided over the Senate. Agreed to.

The Chair (Ingalls) laid before the Senate a number of bills just signed by the Vice-President, who was occupied at the Clerk's table signing bills. When they were read it was found that among them was a House bill for the equalization of bounties.

Mr. Hamilton, of Maryland, said he would like to know what about that bill, which was signed by the Vice-President.

Mr. Logan.—It has been signed by the Vice-President and Speaker of the House. The Chair (Ingalls) The bill has been signed by the Vice-President and Speaker.

Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, I raise a question of order. The bill having been submitted to the Conference Committee having been laid on the table by the Senate the Vice-President could not legally sign the bill.

The Chair said he could not entertain a question of order on a bill not before the Senate.

Mr. Davis said he entered his protest against signing this bill.

Mr. Davis presented the credentials of Hon. Allen T. Caperton, President of the Senate elect from West Virginia, for a period of six years from April 18, 1875. Read and placed on file.

Mr. Davis was appointed a committee on the part of the Senate to wait on the President and notify him that Congress had finished its business and was ready to adjourn at noon. They reported that the President had no further communication to make. Vice President Wilson then declared the Senate adjourned without day.

President and notify him that Congress was ready to adjourn.

Mr. Hyatt moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill in relation to the Hot Springs reservation. Negatived.

At this hour, 11:40, the pressure of the spectators is so great that the doors of the galleries are open to let in the galleries were crowded and the door-ways blocked up with those who could not force their way in. Even in the diplomatic gallery there was not a vacant seat. As the last minutes were wearing away the Speaker was obliged to suspend the reading of the enrolled bills.

At a minute before 12 Mr. Dawes, from the Committee to wait on the President, reported that the Committee had seen the President and that he had no further communication to make to Congress.

The last act carried and signed was one for the benefit of Wm. Green, and before the messenger bearing it to the President had got out of the hall the Speaker's gavel fell and he took his farewell of the House in a short address.

SPEAKER BLAINE'S CLOSING ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN: I close with this hour a six years' service as Speaker of the House of Representatives, a period surpassed in length by but two of my predecessors, and equaled by only two others. The rapid mutations of personal and political fortune in this country have limited the great majority of those who have occupied this chair to a term of only one or two years. It would be the gravest insensibility to the hopes and responsibilities of life not to be deeply touched by so signal a mark of public esteem as that which I have been privileged to receive at the hands of my political associates. I desire in this last hour to renew to them, one and all, my thanks and my gratitude.

To those from whom I differ in my party relations—the minority of this House—I tender my acknowledgments for the generous courtesy with which they have treated me. By one of those sudden and decisive changes which distinguish popular institutions, and which conspicuously mark a free people, that minority is transformed in the ensuing Congress to the governing power of the House. However it might possibly have been under other circumstances, that event necessarily renders these words my farewell to the Chair.

The Speakership of the American House of Representatives is a post of honor, of dignity, of power, of responsibility. It is a position of great trust and confidence; they are both onerous and delicate; they are performed in the broad light of day, under the eye of the whole people, subject at all times to the closest observation, and always attended with the responsibility of the public. No other official is held to such instant and such rigid accountability. Parliamentary rulings in their very nature are peremptory—almost absolute in authority and instantaneous in effect. They can not always be enforced, and yet they are the only means of securing popularity; but I am sure that no man of any party who is worthy to fill this chair will ever see a dividing line between duty and policy.

Thanking you once more, and thanking you most cordially, for the honorable and successful result of your action on my credit, I perform my only remaining duty in declaring that the Forty-third Congress has reached its constitutional limit, and that the House of Representatives stands adjourned without day.

NEW ALBANY, Ind., March 4.—The Ledger-Standard this evening publishes an account of the Moody-Tolliver difficulty, which is supposed to have led to the killing of Thomas Moody at Orleans, Orange county, this State, on the night of Tuesday last. It was the result of a quarrel between two families in that section in regard to the right of property which Thomas Moody died possessed of. Mrs. Moody was a sister of Tolliver's and it was made up by the Moody's to deprive Mrs. Moody of her right in the property. They accused her in a suit several years ago of having stolen two thousand dollars from her husband. The courts decided that she could not steal from her husband. An attempt was then made to induce her to leave the property, and in 1872 it is believed that the Tollivers undertook to assassinate the family of Moody. At attempts to fasten the crime on the Tollivers have failed. It is supposed that on Tuesday night last either Tollivers or Moody was hired by the assassins to kill the other. The act was a cowardly one and cannot be justified under any circumstances. Whoever the assassin may be, concealed himself and fired on Moody and seven buckshot entered his person, from the effect of which he died shortly after 11 o'clock. The Corcoran, owner of Orange field an examination, the result of which has not been ascertained. The county commissioners now offer a reward of \$1,000 for the arrest of the assassin and have asked the Governor of the State to offer a reward of \$5,000. It is believed that an indictment in regard to the matter and the people express themselves as prepared to aid the authorities in ferreting out the guilty parties.

Weather Report.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER, U. S. ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C., March 4.—8:30 P. M.

PROBABILITY.

For the United States, tomorrow and the Ohio Valley a falling barometer, southeast to northeast winds, warmer cloudy weather, with rain or snow.

For the South Atlantic States, a falling barometer, southeast winds, warmer and cloudy weather and rain.

For the North Atlantic States, lower Missouri Valley, northeast to southeast winds, a falling barometer, warm cloudy weather and snow.

For the lake region, northeasterly winds, a falling barometer, cloudy weather, higher temperature and possibly snow.

For the Middle States and New England, a higher pressure, northerly winds, cold and partly cloudy weather, except increasing cloudiness and higher temperature in Virginia, with possibly rain.

For the New England States, lower Missouri Valley, northeast to southeast winds, a falling barometer, warm cloudy weather and snow.

An Abortionist Arrested.

St. Louis, March 4.—Ida Jones, a colored girl, died here yesterday under the operation of an abortionist. The belief that an abortion had been performed on her. An old woman named Hannah Owens, a midwife, was arrested on suspicion of being concerned in her death. To-day an inquest was held and testimony elicited tending to show that Mr. Owen performed the abortion, instruments and medicine used in such practices were found at her house, and there seems to be little doubt that she is an abortionist, and that Ida Jones died from treatment received at her hands.

HAVANA.

HAVANA, March 4.—Sharkey the escaped murderer, arrested on complaint of the Captain of the steamer Crescent City, has been released.

Captain General Canales, before leaving for Spain, pardoned Senor Nieto Sota, formerly editor of the Republican journal El Triunfo, sentenced to two years' banishment.

Made a Confession.

Pittsfield, March 4.—Brown, who is to be executed on the 24th for the murder of an old couple, Mr. and Mrs. Kramer, made a full confession of guilt to-day, stating that he committed the murder and had no accomplice.

Content Abandoned.

MEMPHIS, March 4.—Four colored men demanded admission to the new Memphis theatre to-night, and were given seats in the dress circle, Manager Dovey having abandoned the idea of contesting their right to do so in the courts.

Reduction of Railroad Fare.

CHICAGO, March 4.—The Pennsylvania Railroad Company will announce by posters to-morrow morning that they have reduced the passenger rates from this point to Baltimore and Washington to eight dollars. It is unofficially but positively stated that the Baltimore & Ohio road will meet these rates by a corresponding reduction.

WASHINGTON.

SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The President has signed the bill granting to railroads the right of way through public lands, and the bill admitting Colorado as a State.

BILLS NOT ACTED UPON.

Among the measures which were left pending in Congress are the steamboat bill, the bill proposing an amendment to the Constitution, changing the manner of electing the President and Vice President of the United States, Col. Scott's Texas Pacific railroad bill, and several other railroad relief bills.

THE BOUNTY BILL NOT A LAW.

The proceedings of the Senate show that the bill for the equalization of bounties was not in proper shape for the signatures of the Speaker and Vice President. It being held by old and experienced Senators that the motion to lay the conference report on the table, which was agreed to by a vote of 20 to 24, was undeniably a refusal on the part of the Senate to accept the report, much surprise was expressed that the bill, though finally agreed to by the Senate, should find its way to the President signed by the presiding officer of each house. The President was informed of these facts, and he withheld his signature; but even if the bill had come before him, it is an unquestionable manner he would have returned it for the reasons, first, the bill appropriated from the treasury a large sum of money at a time when the revenue is insufficient for current wants; second, he did not believe that any considerable part of the ex-soldiers, who it was supposed would be the beneficiaries of this appropriation, were applicants for it, but rather that it would result more in a measure for the relief of claim agents and "middle men," who intervene, or would intervene, to collect or discount the bounties granted by it.

CONFERENCE BILLS.

The committee of conference on the sundry civil bill made the following settlement of the points in dispute between the House and Senate, and the bill became a law in exact accordance with their recommendations: The House concurred in the Senate amendments regarding the U. S. bank note printing controversy. The House receded from its disagreement to the following Senate amendments: making single rate of postage on fourth class mail matter one cent instead of two cents; the House agreed to the Senate amendments inserting \$50,000 for government building at Grand Rapids, Michigan; the Senate receded from its amendment proposing to strike from the list \$101,000 for surveying land reservation and all items for paying for contents of sundry contents for reasons of general interest. The committee of conference dropped from the bill the Senate amendment of \$150,000 for extension of the Government insane asylum. The Senate also receded from its disagreement to the House provisions for the reorganization of the Treasury Department contained in the Kellogg measure, which was made a part of this bill. The two houses compromised on \$45,000 as the amount to be appropriated for the surveys west of the one hundredth meridian, and on \$75,000 for contents of the new house building at New Orleans. They compromised on the so-called McGarran clause by striking out the provision for bringing suit for the recovery of the New Idria mines and inserting a direction that the Secretary of the Interior shall report to the Congress the result of his investigation into possession occupies more land than it is entitled to claim under the mining laws. The Hawaiian treaty will probably be the first business considered by the Senate in extra session convened for to-morrow. Tobacco and manufactures of tobacco will be added to the list of American products to be admitted free of duty into Hawaii.

ARKANSAS MATTERS.

It is understood that the President will take no further action in the affairs of Arkansas, he being influenced by a recent expression of the House against the Governmental interference.

From the Black Hills.

CHEYENNE, WY., March 4.—Two members of the Sioux City Black Hills expedition reached Fort Laramie to-day. Their transportation consisted of a small sled drawn by one ox, and they had been two days without food. They reported that they left Sioux City on October 27 and reached a point in the Black Hills six miles from Hainey's peak on Christmas, and immediately erected huts for shelter and built a large stockade. Two of the members of the expedition had returned to Sioux City and one died. They report the finding of gold, but say the weather was too severe to do much prospecting. The distance from Cheyenne to the Black Hills is 180 miles, over good roads to Red Cloud Agency, which is forty miles from the diggings. The government won't allow miners to enter the Hills.

FIRE RECORD.

BOSTON, March 4.—The South Boston companies burned last night. Loss \$75,000.

JEFFERSONVILLE, IND., March 4.—A double tenement house in Port Fulton, in the eastern suburbs of this city, belonging to McMinis & Mann, valued at \$30,000, took fire from a defective flue this evening and was totally destroyed. About \$300 worth of wearing apparel and furniture was badly damaged by fire and water. Insurance on building, \$900, in the Royal, of Liverpool.

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